the common refectory, we cannot doubt but the principal refectory must have been in a style of unusual magnificence, and the hospitium, running from the south side of the church in a southerly direction, must have been of unusual extent; indeed, the foundations of both buildings, which were distinctly traced out at my instance, by Mr. Beck, the careful and diligent historian of this district, prove this beyond a doubt: all that remains either of them or the cloisters themselves, are the few remains of the hospitium attached to the south wall of the church, consisting of the shafts and part of the capitals of the vaulting.

EDMUND SHARPE.

LIGHT, AIR, AND WATER OF THE POOR.

PUBLIC attention has been stedfastly fixed on the sanitary condition of the humbler classes, and inquiries have been directed into the haunts of poverty, which are but too frequently the purlieus of filth. Possibly the origin of this movement is not deducible from that pure benevolence which is founded on the basis of Christian charity, and is rather owing to that tendency to self-preservation which is the instinct of nature, seeing that the recent scourge of the cholera has stimulated the sympathies of the higher classes to a more active regard for the cleanliness, comfort, and health of their toiling neighbours. Whatever the motive may be, the object and end are good, and if the scourge of epidemic persuade men to a more elevated mode of life, to the practice of fraternal amenities, and to the amelioration of the mass of mankind, it boots not to inquire too scrupulously.

Before the lethiferous year of contagion, who thought of prying into the by-lanes, courts, and alleys of the metropolis, or what philanthropist deviated from the Courtly quarters—the parks, squares, and broadways of fashionable *rectitude*?

It has now become fashionable to be amongst eleemosynary committees, and it is well it is so, for the lot of suffering and long-neglected humanity is like to profit by this new and well-timed bias of aristocratic feeling or affectation.

The first thought of awakened terror was the wish to furnish every abode of the destitute with a sufficiency of *water*, the second to provide sewerage, and the third, better regulated apartments.

Several model lodging-houses have been also established, and on this theme, some two years back, I furnished THE BUILDER with remarks on their ventilation and arrangement. Since then five or six have been established, and in these some 2,000 or 3,000 of the more independent of artisans, mechanics, and labourers (*cælibates*) have been and are accommodated. This is a step in advance, and, no doubt, will in time, by the teaching of example, greatly improve the mode of construction in erecting houses for the poor; but what is the amount of benefit conferred on the existing swollen population of the slums of London, or what proportion does this section of 3,000 souls bear to the 800,000 who yet pine in indigence, squalor, pestilence, and darkness in the rookeries *within every district* of the bills of mortality.

Much parade has been made by sewer authorities of their drainage, much by the water companies of the increased flow of water; but there are in every quarter of the town, city, and suburbs crowded dwellings where there is as yet no sewerage, and in which the privies exhale miasmata sufficient to originate again, in sultry weather, and in certain stagnant conditions of the atmosphere, pestilence as lethiferous as that from which, under Providence, we have been yet preserved.

I will not particularise neighbourhoods, for it might be invidious and prejudicial to the interests of householders, where, lately, no one could walk without being disgusted by the emanations from sewers or *reservoirs*; but I will undertake to lead a sanitary commissioner, or any subordinate who may be delegated to accompany me, through any parish in London, and to convince him by the most forcible evidence, by an appeal to his senses (those of smell, eye, and of taste), that foul and tainted air, the origin of all epidemics, is at large and poisoning the breath of life: for several days last week it was palpable in most parts of the town, and even in open and opulent suburbs, where, on the stagnant air, a heavy reek of pestilence issued from the constricted lanes, doing the work of contagion.

This comes from the numerous open privies, in a heavy sickening vapour, which, for want of buoyancy rolls along the surface and extends far beyond the region of its generation.

In confined rooms, occupied each on an average by three persons, the effect of stinted oxygen is visible in the wan features and gaunt frames of the inmates, who, in addition to this visitation, have to endure a short allowance of light through *one window* (without any back current or ventilation), and generally a scant supply of *bad water*: the wooden tubs in which this last is meted, being devoid of waste pipes, are conservative of epidermis and filth: thus the three most vital elements—light, air, and water—are withheld from that class of the community which most needs their refreshing influence, when retired to fitful rest after a day of toil.

It often occurred to me that the maudlin sympathies of platform orators when treating of the sanitary question savoured strongly of rose-water and Persian carpets. Noble Lords who have only *heard of* such privations, speak poetically of the benefits of model lodging-houses: let them visit the lairs of want, and carry sanitary reform into practical utility: let them ameliorate those evils where they have long existed—in the poor man's home, be it chamber or cottage. A noble sympathiser, on inspecting the hovel of an Irish labourer in St. Giles's, asked if he did not *filter* his water—"An' sure, yer honour," replied Paddy, "the company supplies it ready filthered from the Thames: the childer don't drink it anyhow, and I might as well take to the pump as axe the turncock to draw it mild: maybe it's whisky it wants!" His Lordship took the hint.

In France the President of the republic has taken up the plan of improving the dwellings of the poor. Our Commissioners are well paid for their office, and should actively attend to the speedy redress of these wide-spread evils. Perhaps it might be "*infra dig.*" to personally inspect immundities: if so, some operative should be enjoined to do the offices of visitation and inspection. The Roman who sought official honours was made Ædile, or public scavenger in derision; he, however, accepted the post, conferred in contempt, and made the office important and respectable by the expurgation of Rome.

Defective sewerage is the first evil, bad and scant water the second, insufficient light and ventilation the third; these demand speedy correction. The expense will be amply requited in the increased energies of the producing classes, the care and trouble in the improved health of the community.

QUONDAM.

NOTES OF BUILDING WORKS IN IRELAND.

A NEW church has just been completed at Sidney-parade, Dublin, on the estate and at the cost of the Honourable Sidney Herbert. The total dimensions are 98 feet 2 inches long, by 46 feet 6 inches wide; height to level of wall-plate of aisles 15 feet, to ridge of roof 22 feet, to level of wall-plate of clerestory 28 feet 6 inches, to ridge of roof 42 feet. On the western elevation is a tower 16 feet 6 inches square, and 75 feet high, with a circular turret, attached at the angle, 2 feet 8 inches diameter, and 37 feet high, perforated with semi-circular headed openings to admit light. A winding staircase, leading to the organ loft, is constructed therein. In this front is the entrance to nave, by a semi-circular headed ope 4 feet wide, 7 feet 6 inches high, with clustered Norman columns, and cut stone dressings. Above this is a gable perforated with a central window 11 feet 6 inches high, by 2 feet 6 inches wide, with intersecting Norman arches springing from columns at each side. The large tower, which is decorated in a similar manner, is surmounted by a conical stone roof 14 feet 9 inches high, having grotesque figures at the angles. The flanks are perforated with five circular-headed windows, with cut stone dressings; those of aisles 6 feet high, by 2 feet wide, with a similar arrangement in clerestory. On the east elevation is the chancel 25 feet 3 inches long, by 17 feet wide, with a semi-circular absis 17 feet diameter. This absis has five windows and buttresses similar to those on flanks,—height to level of wall-plate 22 feet 6 inches, to ridge of roof 37 feet. The walls of the church are 2 feet thick, built of angular granite rubble; all the dressings throughout are of Caen stone. Total cost, 6,000*l*. Mr. Ferrey, of London, is the architect. Mr. Darby, of Dublin, architect, superintended erection. Mr. George Farrell, builder. Style early Norman.

The directors of the Bank of Ireland are receiving tenders for the erection of a branch Bank at Maryborough, according to drawings by Mr. Halpin, architect. Cost to be about 1,600*l*.

The Poor-law Commissioners are about erecting a new work-house at Glyn, county of Limerick, according to plans by their architect, Mr. George Wilkinson, and have advertised for tenders for same.

There is a new mart erecting at Drogheda, the designs having been furnished by Mr. Wm. F. Caldbeck, architect. The style is Italian; the cost, 2,000*l*.

A new Roman Catholic Chapel is in progress of erection at James-street, Dublin. The plan is rectangular: length of nave to chancel, 130 feet, by 60 feet wide. A plinth, 3 feet 6 inches high, surrounds the building. The front elevation has three entrances, with windows over centre door 6 feet wide, and 14 feet high, to soffit of arch; side doors 5 feet wide, 13 feet high, with label mouldings, clustered columns, and foliaged caps; centre window, 7 feet 6 inches wide, 23 feet high; side windows, 4 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 6 inches; height to castellated parapet of tower, 111 feet 6 inches. From this level rises a spire 86 feet high, double angle buttresses at each side of tower, 4 feet 6 inches wide, with crocketed pinnacles, rising 19 feet above castellated parapet. The side elevation is perforated with nine lancet windows, with label mouldings in clerestory, and eight in aisles. The buttresses between clerestory windows are pinnacled; those of aisles plain angular-headed. The chancel is 18 feet 7 inches by 28 feet 5 inches; has a window 15 feet wide, 34 feet high, and five bays, with tracery. Height to level of wall plate—of aisles, 28 feet; to ridge of roof, 35 feet; to level of wall plate of roof over nave, 53 feet 6 inches; to ridge, 65 feet: walls, 2 feet 9 inches thick. The side aisles are separated from nave by a series of lancet arches, springing from clustered columns, having foliaged caps. Between the lower story and clerestory is a triforium: the ceiling to be groined and bossed. All the principal windows to be decorated with stained glass. Rear and side elevations are punched and drafted; front, sparrow picked: dressings of Tullamore limestone. This chapel has been designed to accommodate 2,500 persons: is being erected by voluntary contributions and bequests. The roof over nave is being laid; tower is at present carried up to a height of 70 feet. Total cost will be 20,000*l*. Style, Gothic of the Middle period. Mr. P. Byrne, architect; Messrs. Meares and M'Kay, builders.

The Alliance Gas Company are erecting extensive stores at Sir John Rogerson's quay, consisting of retort-house, coal stores, &c.; cost will be about 3,000*l*. Mr. Byrne is the architect.

Viaduct over the Boyne.—The works on the Dundalk and Belfast Junction Railway line are progressing rapidly. The viaduct over the Boyne has been in course of erection since January last, but it will take about eighteen months to complete it. By this viaduct, which is of enormous strength and extent, the railway crosses the defile. On each side the embankments are of considerable elevation. It will consist of eighteen semi-circular arches, each sixty feet in span, and will rest on seventeen piers exclusive of the abutments. Those piers are of a very strong description. They are all founded on solid rock, some of them, and the north abutment, at a depth of thirty to forty feet below the surface of the earth. They are constructed of blocks of granite (rock ashlar work), from a ton to two tons weight each, and of the hardest and densest quality; they have an appearance of great strength and stability. The height of the arches over the ravine will be 140 feet above the bottom, and in addition to this there will be a strong stone parapet about 4 feet high. The lowest arch will be about

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